



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture



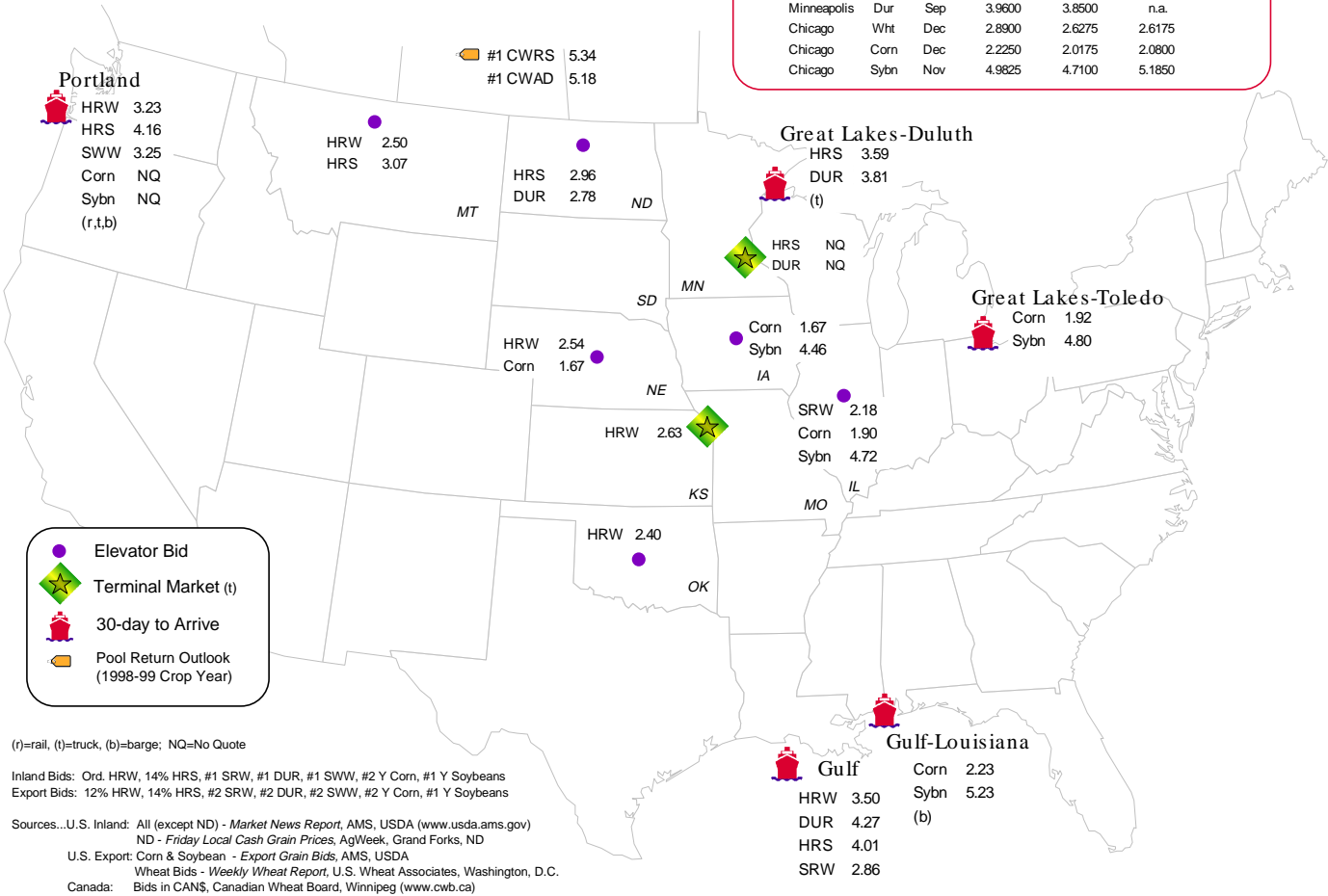
SEPTEMBER 7, 1999

Sept. 8	Transportation, Elevator & Grain Merchants Assn. Annual Rail Symposium	Kansas City, MO	202-842-0400 (ph)
Sept. 12-14	American Short Line & Regional Railroad Association Annual Meeting	New York, NY	202-628-4500 (ph)
Sept. 15-17	National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting	Nashville, TN	202-296-4415 (ph) 202-835-3861 (fax)
Sept. 16-17	National Grain Trade Council	San Antonio, TX	202-842-0400 (ph) 202-789-7223 (fax) office@ngtc.org
Sept. 26-Oct. 1	American Association of Port Authorities Annual Convention	New York, NY	703-684-5700 (ph) 703-684-6321 (fax) info@aapa-ports.org
Sept. 30-Oct. 3	Transportation Research Forum 1999 Annual Conference	Washington, DC	703-437-4377 (ph) 703-435-4390 (fax)
Oct. 1-2	Colloquium on the Risks & Regulations of GMO Food Products	New York, NY	Ms. Bobbie Glover 212-998-6415 (ph) 212-998-6417 (ph) 212-995-4037 (fax)
Oct. 12-15	2 nd National Small Farm Conference	St. Louis, MO	Ms. Troy Darden 573-681-5587 (ph) dardent@lincolnu.gov
Oct. 18-20	Intermodal & Multimodal Trends In Latin America	Coral Gables, FL	619-453-5560 (ph) 619-453-2165 (fax) nporto@ucsd.edu
Oct. 25-26	National Conference for Agribusiness	West Lafayette, IN	765-494-4247 (ph)
Nov. 14-17	National Industrial Transportation League Annual Meeting & Transcomp '99	San Antonio, TX	800-868-2924 (fax hotline) 703-524-5011 (ph) 703-524-5017 (fax)
Dec. 1-3	The International Work Boat Show and Conference	New Orleans, LA	207-842-5508 (ph) 207-842-5509 (fax) www.workboatshow.com/

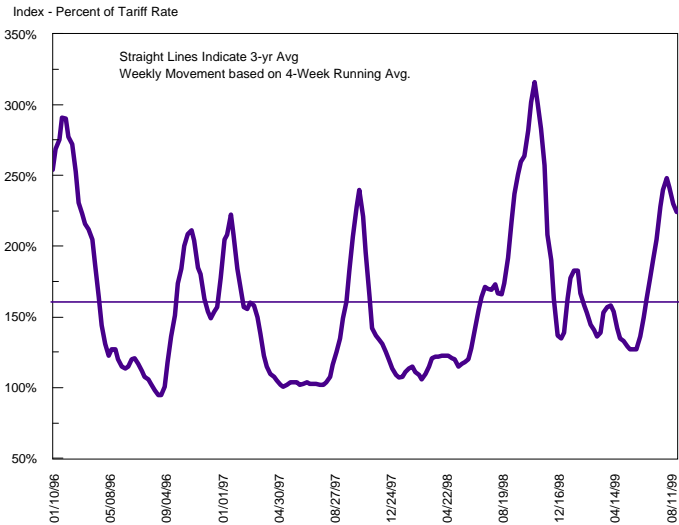
Report is prepared by Karl Hacker, Chambre' Malone, and Karla Martin Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to GTR@usda.gov.

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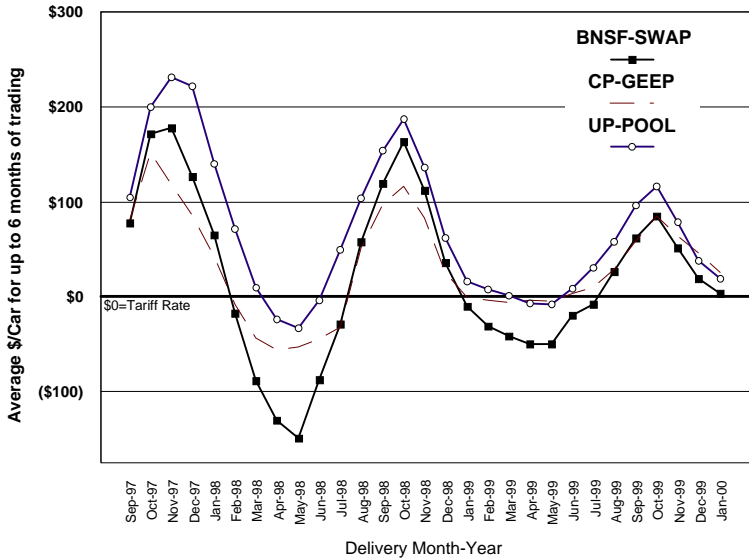
Grain Bid Summary



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Secondary Rail Market Bids



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Oct-99		Dec-99	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	12,175	94%	12,175	37%
UP-GCAS	5,400	47%	5,400	21%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Sep-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	Jan-99
BNSF-GF	\$70	\$20	\$5	
CP-GEEP	\$90			
UP-Pool	\$130	\$48	\$8	

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99
COT/N. Grain	\$28	\$0	no bid
COT/S. Grain	sold out	\$13	\$5
GCAS/Region 2	\$100	\$17	\$2
GCAS/Region 4	\$48	\$1	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com,
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values***

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
9/3/99	Illinois River	twk	220-230
		Oct.	265-270
	Mid Miss	twk	240
		Oct.	270/275
	Ohio River	twk	220-250
	MTCT	nwk	225

Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week

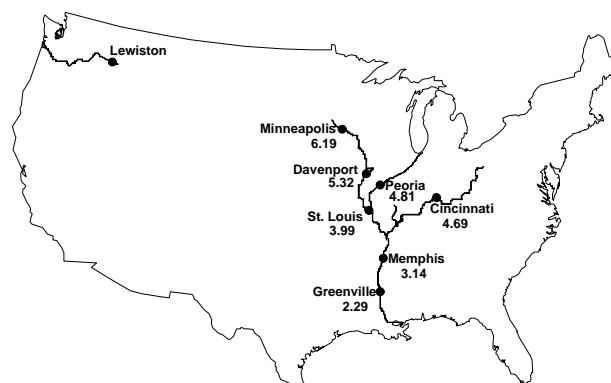
nwk=next week

MTCT=Memphis Thru Cairo Terms

Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	9/1/99	8/18/99	Oct. '99	Nov. '99
Twin Cities	243	243	293	nq
Mid-Mississippi	241	217	277	nq
Illinois River	233	213	274	168
St. Louis	245	192	256	129
Lower Ohio	253	222	271	139
Cairo-Memphis	245	200	259	124

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA

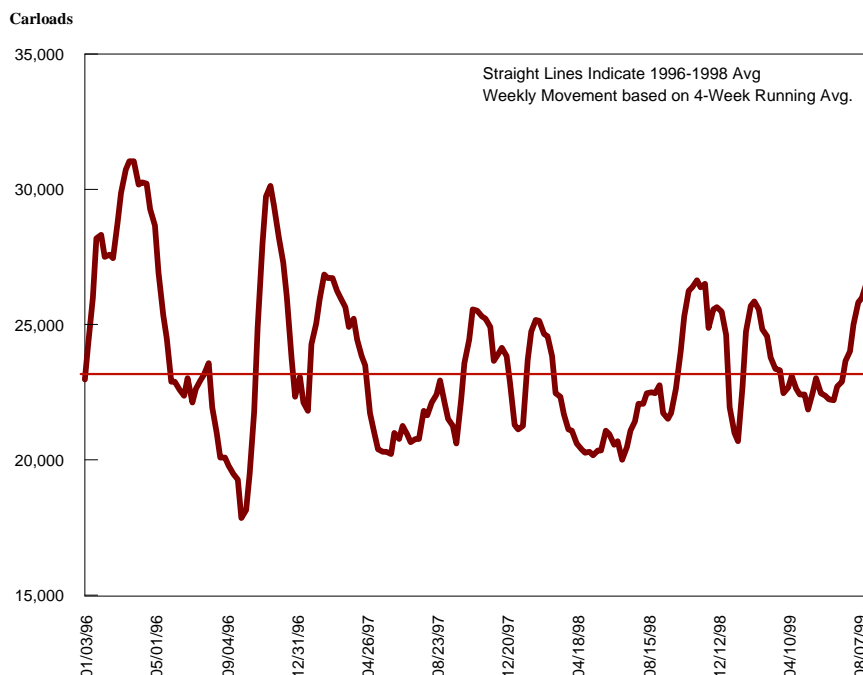
**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**

Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
8/14/99	26,867
8/21/99	26,347
8/28/99	27,009
Year to Date - 1999	813,439
Year to Date - 1998**	748,250
Total 1998**	1,183,860
Total 1997*	1,199,995
Source: Association of American Railroads	

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

Canoads									
			East		West			Canada	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
08/28/99	0	2,187	1,861	1,809	11,239	643	9,270	2,321	4,201
This Week Last Year	767	1,704	1,356	1,775	8,325	806	6,899	2,009	3,843
1999 YTD	15,522	82,781	56,474	88,858	287,461	23,281	259,062	74,321	129,733
1998 YTD*	23,967	77,874	51,353	83,875	272,081	21,808	217,292	76,099	138,567
1997 Total**	29,834	118,581	80,255	124,834	428,243	34,690	378,888	171,428	272,156
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387

Source: Association of American Railroads

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

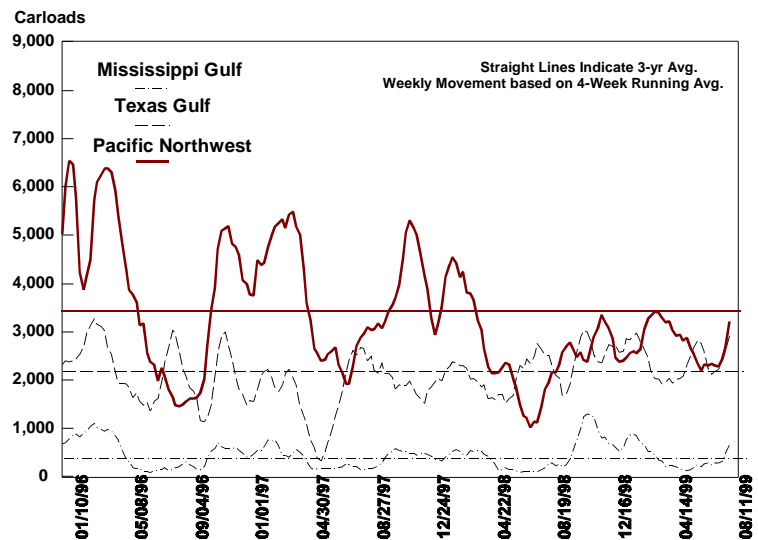
September 1999

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
09/01/99	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,150	\$23.70	\$0.65
09/01/99	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,442	\$48.96	\$1.33
09/01/99	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,850	\$20.39	\$0.56
09/01/99	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,604	\$50.75	\$1.38
09/01/99	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$4,205	\$46.35	\$1.26
09/01/99	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,951	\$32.53	\$0.83
09/01/99	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,100	\$34.17	\$0.87
09/01/99	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,526	\$27.84	\$0.71
09/01/99	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,280	\$36.16	\$0.98
09/01/99	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,980	\$32.85	\$0.89
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

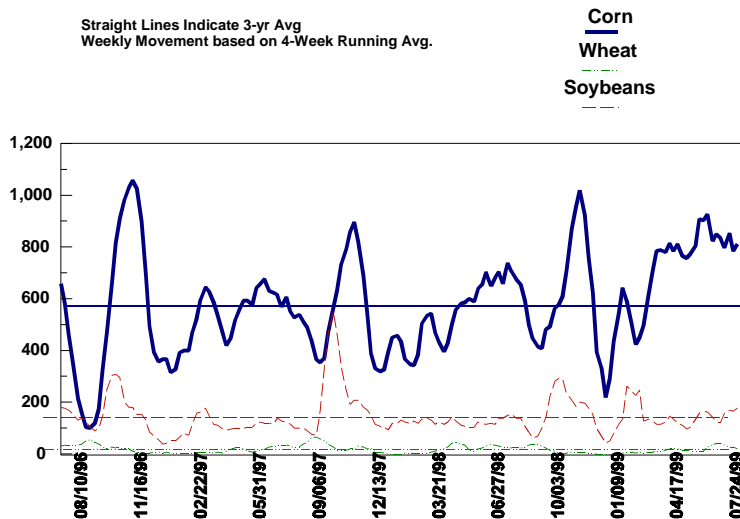
Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
07/21/99	243	2,489	2,304	459
07/28/99	362	2,415	2,464	162
08/04/99	512	2,859	2,936	147
08/11/99	855	2,674	2,940	129
08/18/99	925	3,693	4,512	187
08/25/99	951	3,744*	4,418	440
YTD 1999	15,016	84,873	96,631	8,936
YTD 1998	10,628	71,846	89,452	6,677
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				

Rail Deliveries to Port

Note: *Incomplete data.

Barge Movements - Locks 27

1,000 Tons

**Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 8/28/99

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	407	8	30	459
Winfield, MO (L25)	608	2	124	734
Alton, IL (L26)	834	3	177	1,031
Granite City, IL (L27)	854	12	188	1,070
Illinois River (L8)	167	2	75	253
Ohio (L52)	1	4	11	56
Arkansas (L1)	0	53	0	53
1999 YTD	24,906	2,027	5,096	33,966
1998 YTD	19,053	1,667	5,014	27,707
Total 1998	31,226	2,420	8,866	45,625
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.				
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers				
Melvin Price L&D main chamber closed for repairs.				

U.S. Export Balances* (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
08/26/99	1,381	417	802	566	233	3,398	9,086	3,860	16,344
This Week Year Ago	1,632	466	1,029	798	191	4,116	8,091	4,238	16,445
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
98/99 YTD	3,265	910	1,248	705	211	6,338	48,832	22,422	77,592
97/98 YTD	3,000	462	1,582	1,035	211	6,290	36,454	17,713	60,457
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (www.fas.usda.gov) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
09/02/99	124	226	58	69	756	290	202	1	49
1999 YTD	6,670	6,073	488	4,677	24,351	8,818	5,887	475	821
1998 YTD *	6,182	3,375	409	3,407	18,600	8,499	4,757	254	624
% of Last Year	62%	139%	75%	93%	78%	59%	81%	85%	59%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

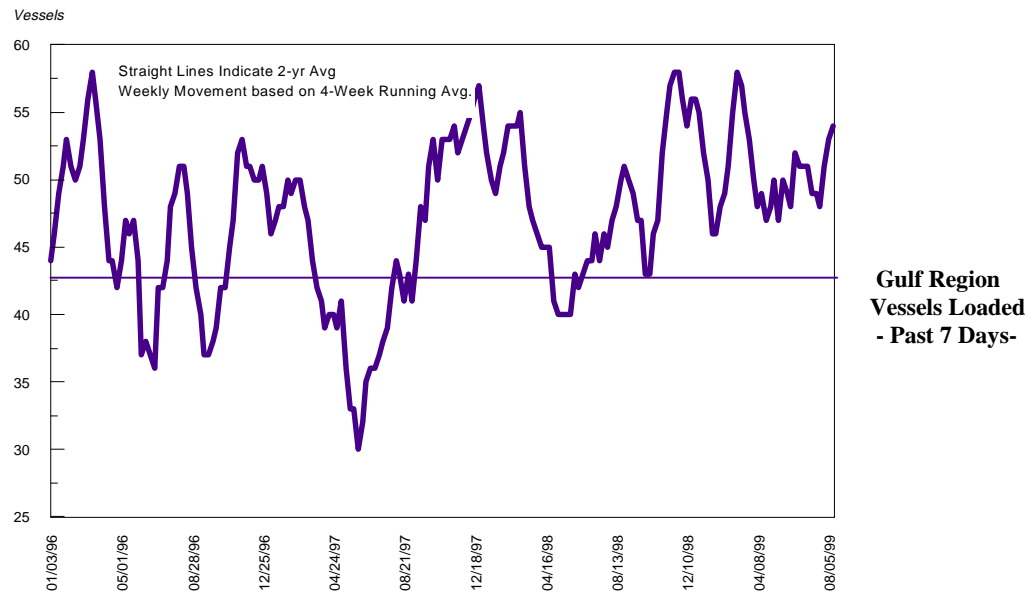
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service * YTD-Year-to-Date (*98 = 53 week period)

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 09/02/99			
Vancouver	434	123	43
Prince Rupert	0	0	0
Prairie Direct	88	26	13
Thunder Bay	107	4	17
St. Lawrence	229	143	0
1999 YTD Exports	858	296	73
1998 YTD Exports	789	226	18
% of Last Year	109%	131%	406%

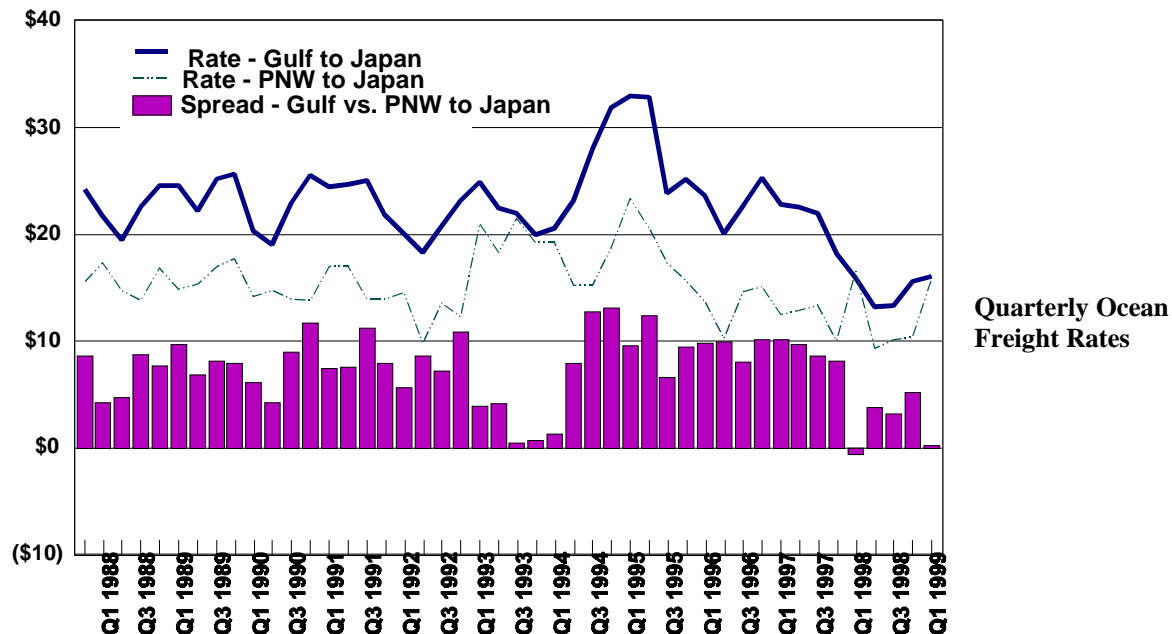
Source: Canadian Grains Commission *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago **
YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31


Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
08/19/99	31	51	59	10			10	7	0
08/26/99	41	58	74	6			4	7	7
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..16)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1998 Avg	40	48	61				9	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						
1996 Avg	38	46	62						

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1999 2 nd Qtr	1998 2 nd Qtr	% Change		1999 2 nd Qtr	1998 2 nd Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$16.08	\$15.93	1%	Japan	\$15.83	\$16.49	-4%
Mexico	\$22.45	\$12.42	81%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$45.80		
Venezuela	\$13.91	\$12.27	13%				
N. Europe	\$12.28	\$9.36	31%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$17.80	\$12.83	39%	N. Europe	\$23.92	\$13.13	82%
				Japan	\$20.82	\$18.55	12%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Ocean Freight Rates (Select Locations) - week ending 09/4/99

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Duluth	Tunisia	Heavy Grain	September	11,000	\$29.00
Gulf	Egypt (Med.)	Heavy Grain	September	55,000	\$12.75
Gulf	W. Africa	Wheat	Prompt	19,000	\$19.50
Gulf	Malaysia	Heavy Grain	September	50,000/55,000	\$18.35
Gulf	China	Heavy Grain	September	55,000	\$19.25
Gulf	China	Soybeans	September	55,000	\$19.80
Brazil	Lisbon/Hamburg	Meals/Pellets	September	55,000	\$12.50
United Kingdom	Columbia	Wheat	September	30,000	\$10.75
Europe	Tunisia	Wheat	Prompt	25,000	\$12.50
N. France	S. Arabia (Red Sea)	Barley	Prompt	90,000	\$13.50

Source: Maritime Research Inc.